

Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities
Minutes of April 11, 2005, 7:00 pm
Meeting Room A, Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Smith at 7:00 pm.

In Attendance

Keith Willette - Chair
Barbara Smith - Secretary
Loretta Henry - Senior Center Liason
Jerry Berrier - Communication and Web Site Liason

Approval of Commission Minutes

Ms. Henry motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 11, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Berrier, the motion was so voted.

Guests

None

Town Liason Report

Mr. Morgado not available to attend meeting due to a Selectman's Meeting, but did briefly stop by to report that there isn't an ambient control on the audible traffic signal in the center of town and they have continued to receive complaints concerning the volume. He has sent a letter to the District Highway Engineer and they will get volume adjusted to an acceptable level.

Mr. Willette is also to contact Chief Wayne Sampson on his next date for "cane training" so he can have a police cruiser monitoring the public compliance regarding pedestrian walkways.

Mr. Barrier suggested that Keith Willette arrange to meet with Mr. Morgado on a monthly basis since Mr. Morgado often has previous commitments and is unavailable to attend Commission meetings.

Appointments

None

Bills

None

Phone Log

Mr. Willette reported that he had received a call from a woman who's mother is a resident at Southgate. She felt they were discriminating by not allowing her mother access to the Pub area with her wheelchair due to a "cramped space" issue in the Pub area. Mr. Willette spoke directly to the resident and advised her to send a letter of complaint to the Resident Committee of Southgate and review the ADA Regulations regarding discrimination. Jerry Berrier also suggested that the resident call the Massachusetts Commission on Disabilities to assist her. He will remain informed of the situation.

Mr. Willette also received a call on the answering machine from another woman requesting information on disabilities for her sister. Mr. Willette left a message on the woman's answering machine and is waiting for a call back.

Member Discussion

Mr. Willette suggested that the Commission start to think about taking a more proactive involvement rather than just a "responsive" action to disability issues. He suggested that the Commission purchase a TV/VCR to put in local businesses to play a short video on various issues to be viewed by customers while they are waiting in line (ex: pizza restaurant, dry cleaners).

Mr. Berrier felt this would be a good venue to disseminate information to the public on disability issues. Ms. Henry suggested that the Commission contact Shrewsbury Cable to assist in putting together a video concerning various issues such as, accessibility, parking, walkways, signs and service dogs. Mr. Willette will follow-up on putting this project together.

Old Business

Mr. Berrier reported that the Voter Equipment Accessibility Fair in March that was sponsored by Secretary Galvin's office was a huge success and very well attended.

Our next meeting will be held on May 9, 2005 at 7 pm at Town Hall,
Meeting Room A.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30om by Loretta Henry and seconded by
Jerry Berrier.

Respectfully Submitted by
Barbara Smith